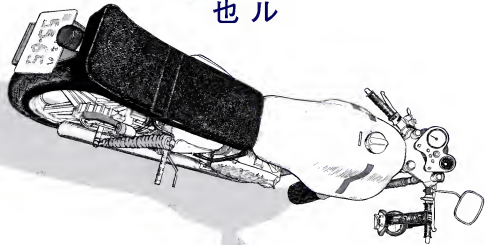


ゴーグル
豊田徹也

短編集

GOOGLES
TOYODA TETSUYA



ゴーグル 豊田徹也

GOOGLES

TOYODA TETSUYA

講談社



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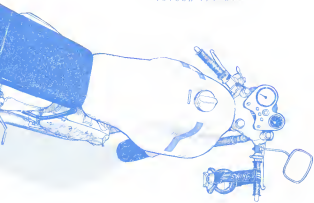
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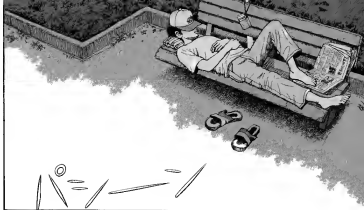
GOOGLES

TOYODA TETSUYA

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—WINDS FROM
THE SOUTH-WEST,
THEN WEST, WITH
SOME AREAS
EXPERIENCING
THUNDERSTORMS
IN THE EVENING





Slider













*So
why'dja
even
swing!?
Are you
stupid or
somethin',
Kouhei-
san!?*



*I-I just
swung
and it
happened
to hit!*

*What
the heck
didja hit
it for!?
I just told
you not
to hit it!*

*There's
nothing
to settle!
You're the
one that's
going!
Now hurry
up!!*

*Uhm,
you know,
who's
going
to go
get the
ball...*

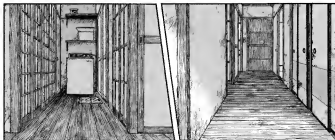


*What?
Settle
what?*

*Fine then,
let's settle
this with
rock-
paper-
scissors.*

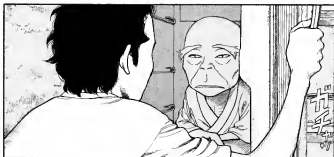














Who are
youuuuuu?



Ah... Ah...
Ahhhhh...



Youuuuu...
You can
see
meeee?

A-Are you
a resident
of this
house?

Ah, Uh,
I'm... Uh...
T-The ball!
I just came
here to pick
up the ball. I
didn't mean
any harm...



I'm the
god of
poverty.

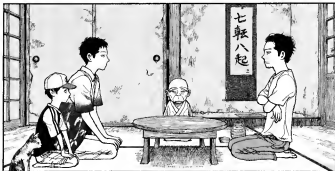


You
shouldn't
look at
me too
muuuucc
cckkkk.

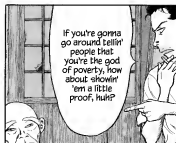
Huh!/?
See
you!/?
Yes!
Yes,
I can!











I lived in locations like the small openings in buildings, under the bridge, and in the thickets at the park... I moved from place to place.



I avoided people as much as possible so that I would not cause needless suffering.



One day, when I was sleeping in my cardboard house, I sensed someone's presence and opened my eyes.

Shh!



Then that means you were homeless—

They were filming a documentary that was going to air on an evening news show.

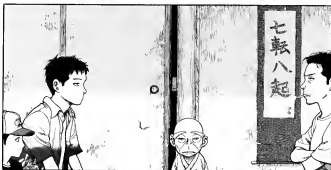


When I came to I was surrounded by men carrying cameras and microphones.

Then a few weeks later, my image made it onto Braun tubes all across the nation.



I refused their request, but the men told me that they really wanted to raise more attention to these situations and left.







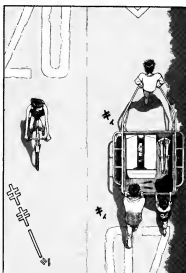






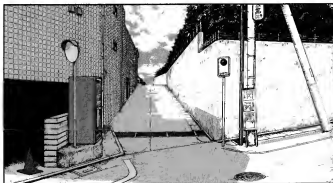
What!?
The Asia
stock
market
took a
tumble
and has
crashed!?

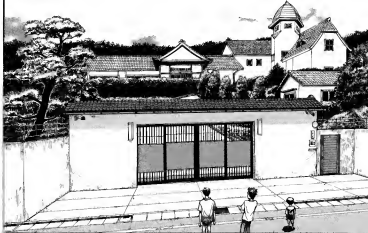










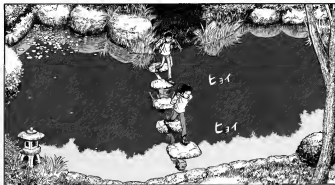






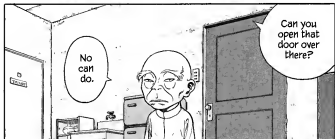
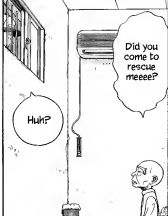




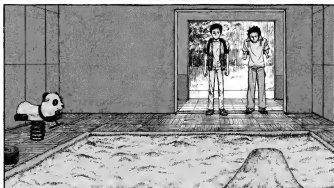


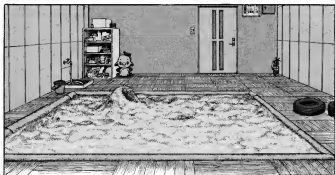
















Who
are you
people?

Wahhhh!

*Ow!
Hey! Let
us down,
you dumb
bastard!*





An employee?



I... I'm one of the employees that you laid off recently from that factory of yours!

Oommm...!!



So you were going to rob me to get revenge or something of the like?

No!!



Don't screw with me, you asshole!!

I don't recognize anyone like you.



No... I don't know this guy.

Milord, is he from the association?



Listen, man... err, I mean... sir, I came... calling today because I have something that I wish... to bequeath to you...



**Ah! Hey!
Wait one
second!**

Hurry
up.

**Hold it!
Hold it
right
there!**

Well, let's
just hand
them over
to police as
they are.

Yes,
milord.

Ah,
what an
annoying
fellow.

*If you would
just take a
look at it for
me, then I'd be
willing to go
to the police
or whatever
afterwards.
Please, sir!!*

As you
command.

Fine. Let
him down,
Sakuma.



**There's something
that I want you to
take a look at!
Just one glance!
That's all! Please,
Mr. President!!**







**WHEN
DID YOU
PEOPLE
....!?**

*That's
the god of
fortune!!*

*This
is the
god of
pov—*

The god of
fortune....!?

Wha...?

*I see!
So your
goal was
to steal
the god of
fortune
from
under my
clutches!!*

*I've had
him here
for close
to ten
years!!*

*...Um,
I have
no idea
where
you're
going
with
this.*

Whaaaa
aat??

The per-
formance of
my company
continued
to be stable
even when
we were in
a recession
after the
bubble burst
because I
had the god
of fortune
with me!!

Milord, he
must be a
spy from
the as-
sociation
after all!

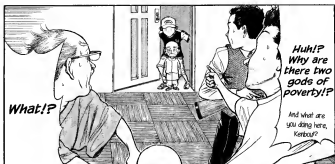
The board
of directors
doesn't
even know
about this!
How did you
find out!?

What are
you goin'
on about!/?
You guys
got a few
screws
loose in
your heads
or some-
thin'!/?

Huh?

Ahh.

Oh no,
looks like
we came
out at the
wrong time.



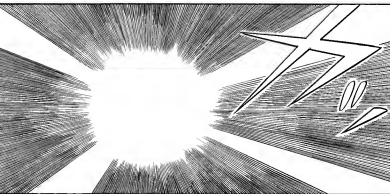


Get back,
milord!!

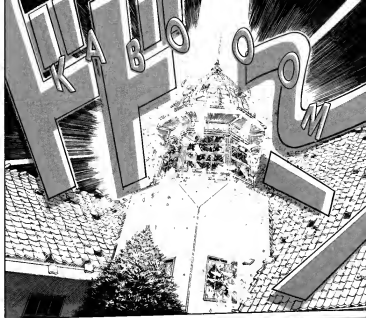
Ahh, don't go
acting on your
own now!!

Kouhei-
san,
watch
out...!!

Hey! What's
about to
happen?!







Kouhei-
san!?
Kenbou!?
Are you
okay!?

Milord!
Get a
hold of
yourself!

Ahhh!
The
switch-
board is
on fire!!

Kouhei-san!
Hurry! Over
here!!

Ahhhhh!
My house!
My house
is—!!

Hot,
hot,
hooo
oot!!



Headline: Lightning sets fire to mansion, President of Food Manufacturing Company





What?
With the
gods?





his corpse
didn't turn up in
the aftermath
of the fire, so
where'd he end
up getting
to...?

Thinking about
it rationally now
that some time
has passed,
there's no way
that old man
could've been
the god of
poverty, but...



That's true.
He just dis-
appeared.

I thought that
maybe he went
back to that
beat-up house
he was living in,
but I couldn't
find the place no
matter how many
times times I
scoured the area.



Yeah. I
mean, the
president's
house *did*
go up in
flames.

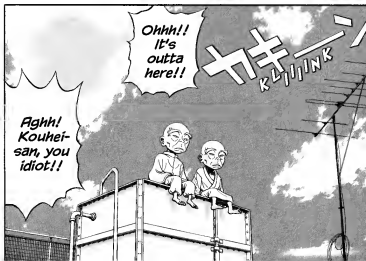
Which
means
that he
actually
was the
god of
poverty,
right?



Yeah...

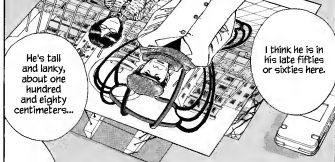


He'll be all right.
I'm sure he's
getting by fine
with that other
old man, the
god of fortune.





Slider
First published in Afternoon
2008 January Issue



Mister Bojangles





HE SAID THEY
CALLED HIM MISTER
BO BECAUSE HE
USED TO COMPETE
IN POLE VAULTING.

MISTER BO
LIVED IN THE
SAME APARTMENT
COMPLEX AS I
DID WHEN I
WAS YOUNG.



THE ONLY
THING YOU
COULD REALLY
CALL US WAS
NEIGHBORS,
BUT WE WERE
VERY, VERY
CLOSE.



AND THIS
"MISTER BO",
WHAT EXACTLY
WAS HIS
RELATIONSHIP
TO YOUR
FAMILY?



AND AFTER THAT,
WE JUST ENDED UP
SPENDING MORE TIME
AROUND EACH OTHER...
MY MOTHER WAS MY
ONLY KIN AND MISTER
BO WAS LIVING BY
HIMSELF, SO WE
TREATED EACH OTHER
LIKE FAMILY.

MISTER BO WAS
THE ONE WHO CALLED
THE AMBULANCE AS
HE FOUND ME WITH
A HIGH FEVER WHEN
MY MOTHER WAS
OUT OF THE HOUSE.
I WAS ONLY THREE
YEARS OLD.

HE USED TO
BE AWAY OFTEN
BECAUSE OF HIS
JOB, BUT WHENEVER
HE WAS AROUND, HE
WOULD ALWAYS PLAY
WITH ME AND TAKE
ME OUT TO ALL
SORTS OF PLACES.



BECAUSE MISTER
BO HAD A DAUGHTER
ABOUT MY AGE, AND
WAS SEPARATED
FROM HIS WIFE, HE
WAS ESPECIALLY
FOND OF ME.

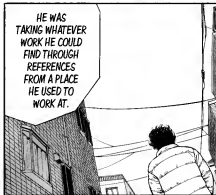
HE SAID HE
USED TO BE A
PERFORMER.
YOU KNOW,
ONE OF THOSE
VAUDEVILLIAN
TYPES, DANCING
AND SINGING...



WHAT DID
HE DO FOR
A LIVING?



HE WAS
TAKING WHATEVER
WORK HE COULD
FIND THROUGH
REFERENCES
FROM A PLACE
HE USED TO
WORK AT.



BUT HE SAID
THAT THOSE TYPES
OF PERFORMERS
WEREN'T MUCH IN
DEMAND ANYMORE,
AND HIS KNEES
WEREN'T IN THE BEST
SHAPE EITHER, SO
HE HAD RETIRED
FROM THAT.





He would
blend all
sorts of
herbs in it.

We would
talk about
rare records,
collections of
paintings, films
and plays...
Mister Bo was
an adult whom I
truly admired.

Whenever I
visited Mister
Bo's home,
he would make
me this tea
that always
smelled so
good.



What
happened
to Mister
Bo after
that?

I went to see
him often, but
some years ago,
when I visited the
apartment building,
it had been torn
down...



And, let's see...
When you were in
tenth grade, your
mother remarried
and you moved to
another apartment
complex, correct?



I went
back to that
neighborhood
time and time
again, but I was
never able
to find him.

About half a
year ago, I saw
him while I was
riding a taxi. His
hair had whitened
and he was using
a cane, but I'm
sure it was him.



No, I'm sure
it was him.
He had the
same hat and
walked with a
slight limp.



Perhaps
you were
mistaken?
It was just a
glimpse from
a moving car,
wasn't it?



What are
you planning
to do if you
find him?

However, I should
tell you that the
services of a
detective do not
come cheap.

...I think I
understand.



Hmm.
I don't think
I've
seen
him.

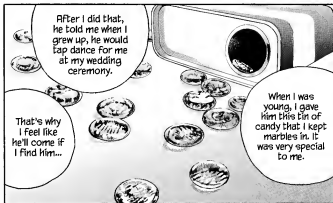
He's a
bit older
now and
probably
has white
hair.



I'm...
not exactly
sure.



...I'm
getting
married
in spring.





Building: Performance Center



...So this
issue you
wanted to
discuss,



I'm
quite worried
about him too.
If you find out
anything about
how he's doing,
I would be
grateful.



That's
not it
at all.



I get the feeling
that you are not
pleased about
your daughter
looking for
Mister Bo...

Then does
that mean you
feel that your
daughter
is having a
difficult
time with
her current
situation?



It's tough on
younger people in
times like these,
shouldering the
burdens of living,
not having too
much hope...



But I fear that
my daughter may
be longing for the
days when she was
still a child and
glorifying them.



I'm afraid
I can't say
they do.



By the way,
may I ask if
your daughter
gets along
well with your
husband?

I under-
stand...



So do
you know
where he
went?

Hmm,
I don't
know
about
that.

Uhm, I feel
like I've seen
him somewhere.
This hat and
these clothes...

Huh?
Have
you seen
him?



She's
a girl.

No idea
about that.
The kid was
a real rough
one, though.

A boy?

A girl?

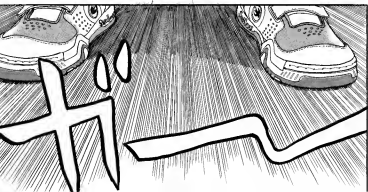
Got a
name?



"That one
kid?"

Who
exactly
do you
mean by,
"that one
kid?"

Oh,
yeah, now I
remember
I saw him
walking
around
with that
one kid.

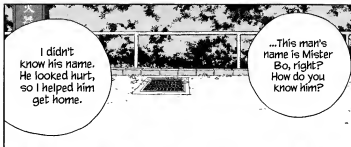




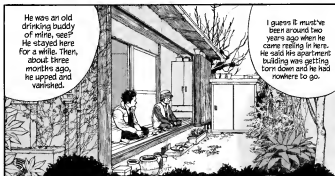














He'd decide to change jobs all the time. But he still got married and he had a kid too.

Actually, he used to have a regular job with some normal company, but he was a real light and flighty sorta guy.



His wife left him because of that and he fell on hard times. He used to spend a lot of time behind the county bars.

His daughter passed away in an accident, though. After that, he started drinking like he was a completely different person.



When he entered that apartment, he had planned to rob from it.



Oh, yeah, the one he called an ambulance for.

Did you ever hear anything about the girl that lived in the same apartment complex as him?



He started working as a security officer and a janitor and went through an alcohol awareness program...

After that incident, he started to spend time with his neighbors and was able to turn his life around.



I wonder
why he called
himself a
performer.



He
must have really
wanted to become
someone else.
His actual name was
Makoto Tsuda, but
it seems like he got
by using all sorts
of different
names.



Oh,
that old one
Sammy Davis
Junior used
to sing...?

Yeah. You
know that
song, "Mr.
Bojangles"?

He seemed
to actually
have had
dreams of
becoming a
performer
when he
was young.
He was a
fabulous
dancer.

Yup,
that's
the one.



I think
he did used
to be a pole
vaulter for
real.

Though he
might have
made it up
and was
actually
just a
thief,



He loved that
song. I guess
he probably
wanted to
imitate it.



He was always
putting on a
show for the
kiddies.



He seemed like he was in pretty bad shape. He always looked like he was in pain.

How was he before he left?



...



He said he was in the terminal stages of intestinal cancer.



You ought to check the hospital or the official records. He was using the name Hajime Fujiwara for those sorts of things.

Hospitalized.

So he might not even be alive anymore. And if he is, he's probably hospitalized somewhere.



Unidentified bodies and missing persons...



Oh, right, the unidentified bodies and missing persons list.

What's that term they use for the list of people that end up dying without anyone to claim them?

Unidentified bodies and missing persons

— A list of the entries of unidentified bodies and missing persons on official record

The body was cremated as there was nobody to claim the remains. If you have any further information, please contact the social welfare department of the respective city.
October 2nd 2010

Saitama prefecture	Mayor Nogawa	Dr. Hatano
-----------------------	-----------------	------------

Permanent residence, address,
and identity unknown

■ Age
30 to 40 years old.



**Permanent residence and address unknown.
Referred to himself as Hajime Fujiwara.**

■ Age
60 to 70 years old.

■ Gender



■ Height
178 cm

■ Physical Traits
White hair, slender build

■ Clothing
Checkered patterned long sleeve
shirt

■ **Personal Belongings**

A dark brown traveling bag

A white towel

One lighter

A candy tin, with 27 marbles inside.





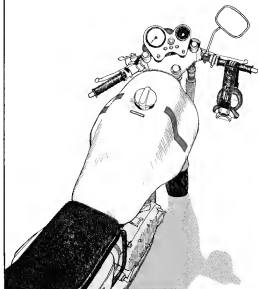






Mister Bojangles
First published in Afternoon
2011 April Issue

Goggles































Ah, I'll get it.

Barney's
Barney's



ガコンガコン



Yeah, I'm in the middle of making some mapo tofu.

Hello?

What?
You can't get back?

Oh, that you, man?



The afternoon?
Oh, I think she was just starin' out the window the entire time. But I went out for a bit, so...

Oh, and she hasn't talked at all. Is she just that sort of kid?



Mmm, she's watching TV right now. That, or maybe just sitting in front of the TV.



Yeah, I'm a little busy; I don't know if I'll be able to get back today.

How's the kid?





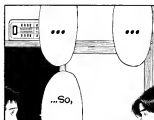
11. Note: Hiroko and Tamura are written with the same two bang just reversed. He's making a joke about their ages also being reversed!











...So,



Hmmm...

She had a grandfather on her mother's side, but unfortunately he got into an accident recently and passed away.



what's the deal with the goggles, then?

Hmm?



I said I was gonna do the laundry, but she wouldn't take it off.



And that dirty, baggy work shirt too.



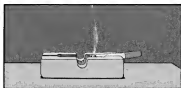
Her grandfather was a biker.



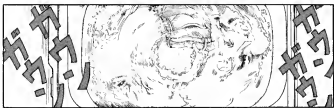
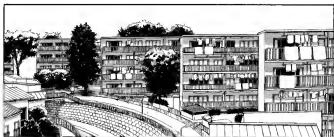
Those are things from her dead grandfather.

What?









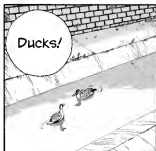
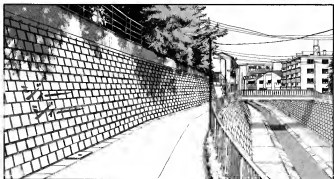


















Specters,
burning trees,
huge snakes,
you name it.

I used to
see things
that weren't
there all the
time, until I
was about
as old as
you are.



...Oh, I
remember
now.



I even saw my
dead grandma
standing beside
my bed once.



So bit
by bit, I
stopped
talkin'
to people
about it.

When I told
my parents about
that sorta thing,
they used to look
at me real worried.



When I think
about it now,
those must've been
things that I saw in
my dreams, and my
fantasies and reality
got all mixed up.



Though
little by little
I stopped
seein' those
things, too.



I was scared
in my own way of
these things that I
didn't completely
understand, and
picked up on how
other people would
react to it.

I wasn't just
kickin' a ball
around and
havin' fun
all day...



I forgot all
about that
stuff for a
real long
time.



Come
on over
here.











Ah,
dammit!
Jesus
Christ.

A-/"



*You're
really
burnin'
up!*



*I've
got no
choice...*









So what
did the
doctor
say?



I see.

He said that if
she just takes
some time and
rests, she'll get
better, and then
he made her
take some
medicine.



That it
was probably
just a sudden
fever from
exhaustion and
continuous
mental stress.



But
you knew
about
those,
right?

...



Other
than that,
there were
bruises and
scars on her
body that he
said he wanted
to hear about
in detail later.

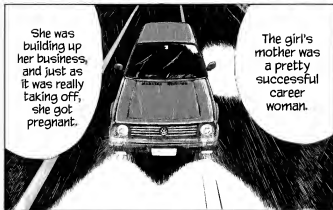


Let's
step out
for a bit.



She was
building up
her business,
and just as
it was really
taking off,
she got
pregnant.

The girl's
mother was
a pretty
successful
career
woman.



To her,
the child only
represented
an obstacle to
her becoming
a real member
of society.

She didn't want
children, but her
husband did, so she
ended up giving birth.
But she wasn't able
to feel any affection
toward her child.


and that's
just one of the
things that I
would consider
her quirks.

The girl was born
with a condition
that made her
especially sensitive
to her physical
surroundings,

Her
mother
viewed
this as a
serious
failing.

To protect
herself that
kid often
caused a lot
of panic.

But
that's not
how her
mother
saw it.



The idea that her own daughter might not be able to fit into society must have been difficult to endure.

Her first words came pretty late, and she was also intensely shy.



You knew her back then, huh?



She's been like that ever since her student years.

She's a perfectionist, to an almost neurotic degree.




That was twenty years ago.



All three of us went to the same college... We were close friends.

Yeah.



so she hated the child, and she hated her husband for just doing whatever he pleased after foisting the child on her.



This husband of hers was no family man,



...The only person who was trying to protect the kid from the fractured waves of emotion of those adults was probably her grandfather.

When that girl was entering kindergarten, their relationship got considerably worse.



Her mother, who took custody of her, was driven to the brink by all the things that she could never fix to her own satisfaction,

And then, just a short while after she entered grade school, her parents divorced.



and it seems that around that time this mother started to become physically abusive.



She wasn't able to participate in any group activities, and it appears she was essentially left to her own devices. She was treated as an autistic child by her teachers.

That's... And the school didn't do anything? Or her friends?



It seems her grandfather often let her ride on the back of his bike.

Since that was the case, she stopped even going to school and just stayed at her grandfather's apartment.



The only person that girl was attached to was her grandfather.



He was caught up in an accident between a moving truck and a passenger car.

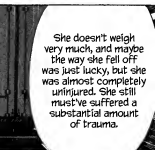
I told you before, but her grandfather passed away in an accident a few days ago.



She was riding on the back of the bike when it happened.



Ever since then, that kid has kept her grandfather's goggles on and her mouth shut.



She doesn't weigh very much, and maybe the way she fell off was just lucky, but she was almost completely uninjured. She still must've suffered a substantial amount of trauma.



Then her mother was hospitalized at the worst possible time.



She started to believe that everything - her divorce, her father's accident - was caused by that girl.

...She hated her daughter, who had completely withdrawn into herself, even more than before.

It was a pretty grim situation.

And then she fell over in the bathroom and hurt herself.

She was trying to kill her daughter.

She was trying to drown her in the bathtub,

but she was met with frantic resistance, slipped on the tile, and fell hard on her head.



I'm not saying it was anybody's fault.

...The details of what we just talked about are fairly rough. It's really not that straightforward.





What do
you think
I should
do?



...What
are you
gonna do
now?



I don't
know
either.

That...
I don't
know.

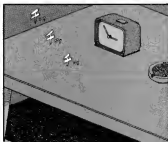


as for what I
should do now,
or if there's
even anything
I can do
for her...

As a person who
was relatively close
to her, I brought her
here only for the
time being, but...



I really
haven't the
faintest.











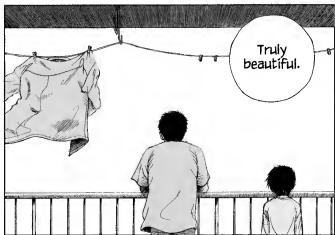


Hm?



Wow!
Beautiful,
ain't it?







Goggles

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